

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2018/19

Dear Clients,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2018.

By the time you are reading this the Christmas period will be upon us all.

What a year 2018 has been. If its not the days of power outages after the April storm, then the perpetual roadworks along Donovan Street with the associated power/phone/access issues, have made running the clinic a little challenging some days. A big thank-you to all our clients for their patience on those days, where factors beyond our control have created disruptions at the clinic.

Make sure you have ordered your pet's medications and food for over the Christmas break well in advance. Some of our suppliers will be closed from the 20th of December until early January 2019, and then don't even get us started on couriers and their reliability at this time of the year. They are run ragged in December and orders often take several days to arrive. Planning ahead is the key to a stress reduced Christmas.

Speaking of not leaving this to the last minute, don't leave your vaccinations for the kennels and cattery to the last minute. Book well in advance to get your pets all up to date ahead of their holiday adventures.

Wishing you and your furry family a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Years.

Geoff, Lara, Morwenna, Rebecca, Miki, Fiona, Vanessa Jaime, Mariska, Anouska, Rachel, and Ashleigh

Welcome Dr Miki

Blockhouse Bay Vets welcomes Dr Miodrag Miljkovic (aka Miki) to the clinic.

Originally from Serbia, Miki has been in New Zealand for sixteen years and has been working in both emergency and general practice here in Auckland.



Pet Photo Competition

Due to the popularity of this annual event, we are happy to announce that the 14th annual Blockhouse Bay Vets photo competition is open for entries.

Each year the quality of entry has been amazing and we are looking for the best photo you have of your furry friends.

This year **Bayer** has once again offered up a years worth of **Advocate flea and worm treatment** for the winning entry. **Bayer** have sponsored this competition since its inception and we are very appreciative of this ongoing support.

Get snapping over the summer or scroll through your log of recent pet pics and send your entries to: vets@bhbvets.co.nz



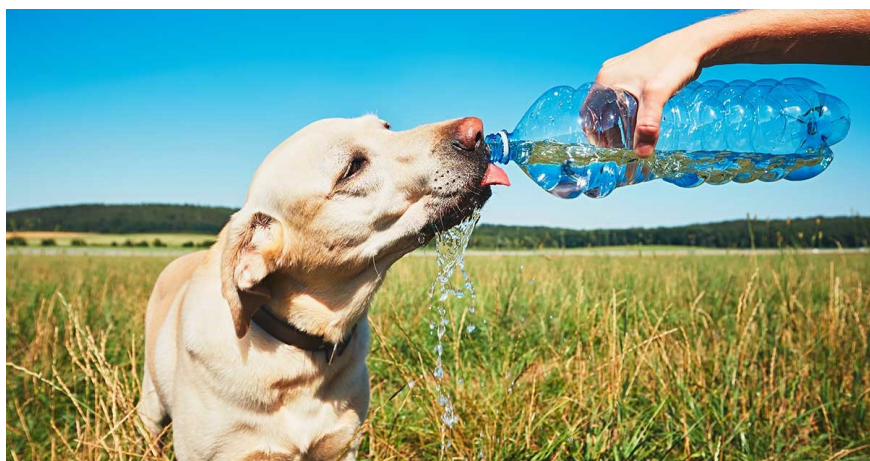
(last years winning picture of Frankie the Schnauzer and friends)

T&C's:

- Competition entries must be received by February 1st 2019.
- Please include your name and contact details plus the pet's name in the photos.
- Maximum of two photo entries per person.
- Please do not send us your entire back catalogue worth of photos of your pet, just your best two.
- Winner chosen and notified in February 2019 and must be able to collect their prize.

Summer Tips

- Keep your flea control up to date. Fleas love Auckland, and summer simply speeds up their breeding cycles. There are a number of options available including some very effective long-acting options for both cats and dogs. Talk to one of the team to see what is right for your pet.
- Summer is grass seed season. Check your pets feet and ears after walks, especially when they go to areas with grass. These seeds can bury through the skin and cause all manner of issues. Get your pets checked if they start licking their feet, shaking their head or rubbing their ears. There could be a grass seed in there.
- Be mindful of how hot and humid it can get in the summer. Don't exercise your dog in the hottest part of the day and if you are out and about with your dog, take a water bottle and bowl for them to use.
- Sunburn can occur in our pets especially those with pink skin and short hair. Cat's with pink noses and ears are very susceptible. There are pet-safe sunscreens available to use.
- Fleas and flies are more prevalent in Summer and both love rabbits and especially love rabbit urine and faeces. Flies can lay eggs on rabbits leading to maggots and flystrike. Check cages and rabbits daily for signs of flystrike and remove soiled bedding material frequently. The use of flytrap tape around hutches can be beneficial over the summer. If a rabbit is regularly soiling itself there may be a medical issue and they should be checked by your vet.



Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Monday 24th - 8.00am - 5.00pm

Tuesday 25th - CLOSED

Wednesday 26th - CLOSED

Thursday 27th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Friday 28th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Saturday 29th - 8.30am - 2.00pm

Monday 31st - 8.00am - 5.00pm

Tuesday 1st - CLOSED

Wednesday 2nd - CLOSED

Thursday 3rd - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Friday 4th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Saturday 5th - 8.30am - 2.00pm



New Animal Welfare Regulations - In force since 1st October 2018

A new round of changes to the Animal Welfare Regulations took effect from the first of October 2018 and for most people there are few issues or changes needed in their day to day lives. There are however a couple of major changes that all pet owners should be aware of, especially coming into summer.

Dogs in vehicles:

- Dogs can get very hot when left inside vehicles, even for a short time, even on cloudy days.
- The new regulations state that "If you leave a dog in a hot car and it becomes heat stressed, you and the owner of the vehicle can be fined \$300".
- Think ahead of where you are going with your dog in the car over the summer.



Dogs on moving vehicles:

- Dogs loose or incorrectly tethered onto the back of a moving vehicle can fall or become hung over the side, suffering significant injuries.
- Dogs on the back of vehicles must now either be within a crate, or tethered in such a manner as to allow them to sit naturally but not allow them to get their legs over the edge of the vehicle.
- Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in you and the owner of the vehicle being fined \$300.



Tail Docking in Dogs:

- Routine tail docking (or banding) is no longer allowed.
- If you dock your dog's tail or allow it to be docked you could face a criminal prosecution and a fine of \$3,000 for an individual or \$15,000 for a business.
- It is now a requirement to report the owners of any puppies born after October 1st, 2018, found with docked tails to the police and/or SPCA.



Christmas Goodies (and Baddies)

Many of the things that we consume more of over Christmas and New Years celebrations are not so good for our pets.

- Chocolate, raisins, grapes, avocado, macadamia nuts, onion and garlic are all potentially toxic to our pets.
- Corn cobs, stone-fruit and bones can cause intestinal obstructions.
- Fatty foods, mouldy food and inappropriately stored food can cause various gastrointestinal upsets and pancreatitis.
- Excess consumption of food, even food normally consumed, can cause gastrointestinal upsets (in pets and humans!)



Our pets also love to play with Christmas decorations and presents. Sometimes this is cute but tinsel and ornaments can cause intestinal blockages if consumed and every year we get at least one case of the dog "opening" a present underneath the tree to eat the chocolates/biscuits/dried fruit wrapped up for a family member. Santa's milk and cookies are also tempting to our furry family members.



Put these tasty presents out just before opening time and keep tempting ornaments out of reach if possible.



Clinic after-hours numbers

Animal Emergency Clinic - 97 Carrington Road, Mt Albert. (09) 849-2121

Western Afterhours - 2/348 Rosebank Road, Avondale. (09) 820-7273